

Healthy Communities



County sets out to gauge adequacy of trauma system

On May 29 the county set out to study the adequacy of the county's trauma system. The county-managed Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency (ICEMA) developed a plan to perform a countywide assessment of the County's existing trauma system, taking into account that there are currently only two designated trauma hospitals in San Bernardino County, the county's Arrowhead Regional Medical Center in Colton and Loma Linda University Medical Center. There are no trauma centers in the High Desert. The study will assess the potential cost and revenue implications of any additional trauma centers that are recommended, and if designated, how those designations would impact current designated trauma hospitals in the county. "San Bernardino County, especially the High Desert region, has witnessed significant growth in housing, population and traffic," said Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt, whose First District takes in most of the county's desert communities. "This countywide assessment will show what the current needs are based on our existing trauma system and the expanding population. It will also show where changes should be implemented in order to best serve the needs of the public, which I suspect will support my goal of bringing a trauma center to the High Desert."

Supervisors approve more than \$2 million for High Desert Youth Center

On March 4 the Board of Supervisors approved a \$2,154,589 contract with Victor Community Support Services to provide one-stop youth services in the High Desert. The One-Stop Transitional Age Youth Center will be another tool to combat the problems of gangs and homelessness in the High Desert by helping at-risk youth transition into self sufficiency. The money allocated by supervisors will provide housing support, assist with education completion, provide vocational and employment support, skill building necessary for community life, recovery and co-occurring specialized programs, recreation activities, access to showers and laundry facilities, email/internet access, parenting and other necessary skills for their success. The One-Stop Transitional Age Youth Center Services will be available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week to kids ages 16-25, and will work in collaboration with other community based organizations and the San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health, Probation Department, Department of Public Health and Department of Children Services.

County detains tuberculosis patient

In September, an alert County Department of Public Health Employee performing above and beyond the call of duty most likely saved countless people from exposure to a tuberculosis patient who repeatedly refused orders to cease public contact. In what was a first for San Bernardino County, the Department of Public Health issued an Order of Detention for the patient and secured a court order allowing the patient to be taken into medical custody to be treated at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center in Colton. The patient complied with the order and without incident was transported to ARMC, where the patient was evaluated, treated, and not allowed to leave until it was determined that it was safe for the patient to mingle with the public.

Healthy Communities (Continued)



State commends improvements in child support efforts

In March the state recognized efforts by the county Department of Child Support Services to improve the collection and distribution of child support funds by removing the county from the state's child support program corrective action process. The state began officially monitoring the county's child support program under the corrective action process in June 2003 when the program failed to meet state standards. The county responded by instituting a new management team led by current Director Connie Brunn, revamping the department's business practices, changing the department's management culture, and eventually registering a notable increase in collections and payments.

Supervisors Declare April "National Donate Life Month"

The Board of Supervisors raised awareness about the need for organ donations by declaring April as "National Donate Life Month." A presentation to the board included a video presentation featuring Supervisor Gary Ovitt, Assemblywoman Sharon Runner, Assistant Sheriff Warren Nobles and his son Scott, a sheriff's deputy. Scott was the recipient of a heart transplant in 1998 and Assemblywoman Runner is on a waiting list for a double lung transplant. "Both Scott and Sharon personify the dilemma of the critical need for organ transplants and what can happen when that occurs. Sadly the availability and need don't match," Supervisor Ovitt said. Each organ and tissue donor saves the lives of as many as 50 people. Each day, about 77 people receive organ transplants. Approximately 98,000 individuals await organ transplants at any given moment. Currently there are 14,000 names on the donor list. Every 20 minutes another name is added to the waiting list.

County opens employee health clinic in the High Desert

In January, the County Human Resources Department's Employee Benefits and Services Division opened the Center for Employee Health and Wellness, High Desert Clinic in Victorville. The facility provides county employees with access to a large part of their work-related medical care in a setting that is not only convenient but time-saving for employees and their departments. The High Desert Clinic provides Pre-Employment Physical exams, Return to Work exams, Yearly Medical Surveillance testing, Commercial Driver's License exams, and the initial treatment and follow-up care for most work-related injuries.

6th Annual Health and Safety Fair attracts thousands

On June 14, the 6th annual Health and Safety Fair hosted by Supervisor Paul Biane attracted more than 5,000 residents to Jack Bulik Park in Fontana. Hundreds of residents received free optical, dental, health and fitness checkups during the fair. In addition, the California Highway Patrol inspected 118 child safety seats. The CHP identified 66 child safety seats that needed to be replaced and provided new seats to parents. Meanwhile, Supervisor Biane's office distributed 2,000 reusable shopping bags. The bags included a pamphlet describing how plastic and paper bag waste affects the environment.

Healthy Communities (Continued)

Veterans' Affairs and Behavioral Health provide services to military

The Departments of Veterans Affairs and Behavioral Health, in partnership with the Loma Linda VA Healthcare System, hosted information fairs to increase awareness of and educate the public regarding issues faced by veterans and their families. Nearly a third of veterans who seek care through Veterans Administration (VA) health centers receive a mental health diagnosis. With more and more soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan with mental health concerns, the Veterans Administration recognizes the need for increased services for veterans and their families. The fairs provide information on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, mental illness, and how to obtain VA benefits.

